

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 to 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) An isolated protein~~The protein of claim 16,~~ wherein the protein comprises one of SEQ ID Nos. ~~35, 37,~~ 39, 42, 44, 46, ~~48,~~ 50, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86.

19. (Currently amended) A fragment of said ~~splice variant of human telomerase~~ the protein according to claim 18, wherein the fragment consists of SEQ ID Nos: 24, 26, 28, or 31.

Claims 20-66 (Canceled).

67. (Currently amended) An isolated protein comprising SEQ ID No: 46 or a variant thereof, wherein the variant has at least 90% amino acid sequence identity and wherein the variant binds telomerase RNA (hTR), and wherein the variant is not SEQ ID No: 2

68. (Previously Presented) An isolated protein comprising a variant of SEQ ID Nos. 35, 37, 39, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84, 85 or 86, wherein the variant has at least 90% amino acid identity with said sequences, and wherein the variant binds telomerase RNA (hTR) or exhibits telomerase activity, and wherein the variant is not SEQ ID No: 2.

69. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein consisting of ~~comprising~~ a fragment of SEQ ID No: 44, wherein the fragment comprises amino acids 530 through 1096, 824 through 1096, or 911 through 1096.

70. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a splice variant of a gene sequence capable of being spliced to encode ~~comprising a splice variant of a reference human telomerase of protein as presented in~~ SEQ ID No: 2, wherein the ~~nucleic acid molecule encoding the splice variant~~ has at least one of the following insertions or deletions;

(a) an insertion of alternative intron/exon sequence-X (comprising SEQ ID No: 32) at its 5'-end following ~~at~~ nucleotide 1766 of SEQ ID No: 1;

(b) an insertion of nucleic acid sequence encoding alternative intron/exon sequence-1 (SEQ ID NO: 24) at following nucleotide 1950 of SEQ ID No: 1;

(c) a deletion of nucleotides 2131 through 2166 of SEQ ID No: 1;

(d) a deletion of nucleotides 2287 through 2468 of SEQ ID No: 1;

(e) an insertion of alternative intron/exon sequence-2 comprising SEQ ID No: 29 at its 5' end following nucleotide 2843 of SEQ ID No: 1; and

(f) an insertion of nucleic acid sequence encoding alternative intron/exon sequence-3 (SEQ ID No: 31) at nucleotide 3157 of SEQ ID No: 1.

and wherein the splice variant does not encode SEQ ID No: 2.

71. (New) An isolated protein consisting of SEQ ID NO: 35.